



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Arizona Department of Public Safety celebrates over 15 years as the regulatory agency for Student Transportation in Arizona

A brief explanation of the Department's function as it relates to School Buses and Student Transportation

Since 1993, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) has been able to serve the citizens and School Districts of Arizona by inspecting each and every operating school bus annually and certifying school bus drivers and school bus driver instructors. Over the past 15 years DPS has gained a close working relationship with Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD). All bus driver violations are reported to the DPS Student Transportation Unit by MVD and other sources. Below are some of the requirements of current and potential student bus drivers as overseen by DPS. For more information visit our web page at: <http://studenttransportation.azdps.gov/>

DPS certifies potential student drivers after they have obtained and completed the following:

- Obtain a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) classes A, B or C with a passengers endorsement and a school bus endorsement.
- Undergo a 10-year driver's history check, and a criminal-history records search, checking both Federal and State records. These checks are completed by DPS personnel.
- Successfully pass a physical examination by a medical doctor certifying they meet Federal and State D.O.T. criteria. Current drivers have physical exams every two years or annually if required.
- Submit to a nine-panel drug screening. Current drivers are required to complete drug screening annually in addition to all federally required drug tests.
- Pass a physical performance test administered by a state certified instructor.
- Pass basic first aid and CPR tests.
- Successfully complete 20 hours of behind-the-wheel driving accompanied by a certified instructor.
- Successfully complete 14 hours of in-classroom instruction taught by a certified instructor. Current drivers are required to complete a 6 ½ hour refresher course every two years.

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